

III. Remarks

Reconsideration and reexamination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested. Claims 10, 12-15, and 17-28 are currently pending.

In the Office Action of Paper No. 25, the Examiner rejected claims 10, 12-15, and 17-28 under 35 USC §112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. However, only claims 10, 20 and 28 were specifically noted as having indefinite language therein.

Claims 10, 20 and 28 have been amended to clarify the indefiniteness noted by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that this amendment to the claims cures the indefiniteness and, accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under §112 is respectfully requested.

Claims 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19-21, 23-25, 27 and 28 of the application were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over German Patent Publication No. 195 09 282 (DE '282) in view of Renner et al (Renner). Claims 13, 18, 22 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DE '282 in view of Renner and further in view of Finch et al. (Finch).

In making the first set of rejections under § 103(a), the Examiner states that DE '282 discloses a "plurality of vehicle door components 7, 92, 93 fixedly attached to the first wall so as to be located within the enclosed volume." It is respectfully submitted that upon close examination, it can be seen that the door component 7 and the door component 9 (of which elements 92 and 93 form a part) are not both fixedly attached within the enclosed volume as defined by the independent claims of this application. For this reason, the claimed element is completely lacking in the cited reference.

As recited in claim 10, being representative of the remaining independent claims, the enclosed volume is defined by the first wall in conjunction with the first hollow of the second wall. The plurality of vehicle door components are recited as being located within the enclosed volume as defined by the first wall with the first

hollow. Additionally, these components are fixedly attached to the first wall (claim 1) which is the wall adapted to face the interior of the vehicle.

In DE '282 only the component 9 is received within the unnumbered hollow as defined by the Examiner. (It is noted that the Examiner, in the Office Action, has referred to the unnumbered hollow of DE '282 as the second hollow. However, for the sake of argument and expediency it is presumed that the Examiner meant to identify the unnumbered hollow of DE '282 as the structure corresponding to the "first hollow" of the claims.) Upon a detailed study of Figure 1 of DE '282, it is seen that component 7 is not mounted within the unnumbered hollow. Rather, following the dashed line off of component 7 it is clearly seen that component 7 is mounted to that portion of the wall located between the first and second hollows of the wall. Accordingly, a plurality of components are not mounted within the first hollow. Additionally, it is noted that neither the component 9 nor the component 10 of DE '282 is illustrated as being fixedly attached to the wall adapted to face the interior of the vehicle. Rather, they are mounted to the wall adapted to face the exterior of the vehicle. The exteriorly facing wall as defined by the claims is referred to as the second wall, and the door components are not recited as being attached thereto.

Regarding the combining of Renner with DE '282, it is respectfully submitted that the curved shape of inner panel 1 in Renner does not find an equivalent or any corresponding part in the support assembly of DE '282. The inner panel 1 of Renner is in fact a portion of the vehicle door itself and not of any corresponding support assembly as defined by the claims or as seen in DE '282. Lacking any corresponding equivalent structure to which it could be applied, the combination of Renner and DE '282 is improper and should be withdrawn. Even if proper, it is respectfully submitted that Renner when combined with DE '282 would suggest modifying a portion of the door to which a support structure of DE '282 is attached and would not suggest a modification of the support structure itself. Thus, it is further submitted that the proposed combination does not make obvious the claimed invention.

In view of the claim limitations noted as being lacking in DE '282 and the failure of the combination of references to suggest or teach the claim combination, with or without the noted omitted elements, it is respectfully submitted that the

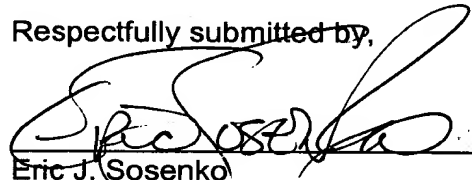
independent claims, claims 10, 15, 20 and 23 are patentable over the combination of DE '282 and Renner.

Further, in view of the independent claims being allowable over the cited references, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are likewise allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of all the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

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